

Message Text

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SUBJECT: KCIA DIRECTOR ANNOUNCES "PROOF" OF STUDENTS' COMMUNIST

REF: SEOUL 2600

1. IN PRESS CONFERENCE APRIL 25 KCIA DIRECTOR SHIN CHIK-SU ANNOUNCED "PRELIMINARY" RESULTS OF GOVT'S INVESTIGATION INTO NATIONAL FEDERATION OF DEMOCRATIC YOUTH AND STUDENTS (NFDYS). SHIN'S PRESS CONFERENCE FOLLOWED ARREST APRIL 24 OF YI CHO'OL, ALLEGED LEADER OF NFDYS AND TARGET ALONG WITH TWO OTHER STUDENT ACTIVISTS OF WIDELY PUBLICIZED NATIONWIDE MANHUNT.
2. IN HIS STATEMENT, SHIN SAID INVESTIGATION HAD YIELDED "UNSHAKABLE PROOF" THAT "IMPURE ELEMENTS" PLANNING TO OVERTHROW ROKG BY FORCE HAD TAKEN OVER STUDENT MOVEMENT. SPECIFICALLY, SHIN SAID NFDYS HAD PLOTTED TO LAUNCH SIMULTANEOUS STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS IN ALL MAJOR ROK CITIES ON APRIL 3, TO FOMENT RIOTS, TO START FIRES AND OCCUPY GOVT BUILDINGS, AND TO SET UP A "WORKERS AND FARMERS' GOVERNMENT ALONG COMMUNIST LINES." SHIN BASED HIS ALLEGATIONS ON RESULTS OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INTERROGATIONS, ON COMMUNIST TERMINOLOGY IN LEAFLETS

SIGNED BY NFDYS AND IN YI CHOL'S DIARY, AND ON NUMEROUS ALLEGED MEETINGS BETWEEN NFDYS LEADERS AND COMMUNIST SYMPATHIZERS. SHIN LISTED MEETINGS AND LINKED NFDYS WITH KOREAN STUDENT CHRISTIAN FEDERATION AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS.

3. SHIN NAMED TEN TOP LEADERS OF NFDYS (ALL STUDENTS) AND FIFTY OF THEIR ALLEGED CLOSE ASSOCIATES. MOST OF THE FIFTY WERE ALSO STUDENTS, BUT THE LIST WAS HEADED BY EIGHT FORMER STUDENT LEADERS OF TEN OR MORE YEARS AGO WITH PAST COMMUNIST CONNECTIONS. AT TOP OF LIST WAS TO YE-CHONG, AGE 50, FORMER HEAD OF PEOPLES REVOLUTIONARY PARTY WHO SPENT THREE YEARS IN PRISON FOR ANTI-COMMUNIST LAW VIOLATION. ANOTHER WAS YU KON-IL, EDITORIAL WRITER AT CHUNGANG ILBO WHO IS WELL KNOWN TO G-2 AS A FORMER STUDENT ACTIVIST WHO RECENTLY HAS BEEN OUT OF TOUCH WITH STUDENTS BUT WHO SUPPORTS EFFORTS IN KOREA OF AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL.

4. LIST OF NFDYS ASSOCIATES ALSO INCLUDED TACHIKAWA MASAKI, DESCRIBED AS LIAISON AGENT FOR CHOSEN SOREN, AND HAYAKAWA YOSHIHARU, SAID TO BELONG TO JAPAN COMMUNIST PARTY. THESE ARE TWO JAPANESE PREVIOUSLY REPORTED AS BEING HELD BY ROK AUTHORITIES IN CONNECTION WITH NFDYS CASE (SEOUL 2531).

5. ONE LEADER OF KOREAN STUDENT CHRISTIAN FEDERATION (KSCF), HWANG IN-SONG, WAS LISTED AMONG TEN TOP NFDYS LEADERS. SIX OTHER KSCF LEADERS WERE AMONG FIFTY KEY NFDYS MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS NAMED IN SHIN'S ANNOUNCEMENT. OTHER STUDENTS NAMED INCLUDED 14 FROM LIBERAL ARTS COLLEGE OF SEOUL NATIONAL UNIVERSITY (SNU), 8 FROM OTHER SNU COLLEGES, AND 18 FROM OTHER MAJOR UNIVERSITIES IN SEOUL, TAEGU, KWANGJU AND PUSAN. SHIN ADDED THAT 240 PERSONS CONNECTED WITH CASE ARE STILL UNDER INVESTIGATION.

6. REPLYING TO QUESTIONS, SHIN SAID GOVERNMENT WOULD DEAL SEVERELY WITH TOP LEADERS OF NFDYS, BUT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SHOW LENIENCY TO THOSE WHO FOLLOWED UNWITTINGLY. SAID GOVERNMENT BECAUSE THEY HAD DELIBERATELY ASSOCIATED THEMSELVES WITH COMMUNIST UNITED FRONT TACTICS. HE QUOTED ALLEGED STATEMENT IN YI CHOL'S DIARY THAT "TERROR IS A BEAUTIFUL AND NECESSARY THING FOR THE PROGRESS OF A SOCIETY CONTAINING CONTRADICTIONS."

7. COMMENT: US INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES HERE ARE IN PROCESS

OF EVALUATING SHIN'S ANNOUNCEMENT. HOWEVER, OUR
INITIAL IMPRESSION IS THAT GOVERNMENT CASE FOR
SIGNIFICANT COMMUNIST INVOLVEMENT IN RECENT STUDENT
PROTEST APPEARS CONTRIVED.

8. INITIAL REACTION OF EMBASSY CONTACTS TO SHIN
ANNOUNCEMENT IS ONE OF SOME CYNICISM. WE CANNOT
YET GAUGE BROADER PUBLIC REACTION. HOWEVER, AS
A PRACTICAL MATTER GOVERNMENT WILL UNDOUBTEDLY DEAL SEVERLY
WITH ACTIVISTS AS SHIN PROMISED.
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